

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8991

INFO EUWZOH/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 0045

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR SREF US OAU

SUBJECT : SOUTHERN AFRICA REFUGEE STUDENT PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 129063

1. SUMMARY: ONLY LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN AND OF CONCERN TO THIS EMBASSY IS PAIGC AND ONLY DISPLACED STUDENTS ARE FROM GUINEA BISSAU. NO ONE IN THIS EMBASSY IS AWARE OF PARTICIPATION BY ANY STUDENTS FROM GUINEA BISSAU IN REFUGEE STUDENT PROGRAMS. EMBASSY OFFICERS CONCUR THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR INTERESTS TO OFFER SMALL NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS, 3-5, FOR STUDIES AT NKUNBI. MEANWHILE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF THERE ARE ANY CURRENT PARTICIPANTS FROM GUINEA BISSAU. END SUMMARY.

2. REASONS FOR BELIEVING PAIGC PARTICIPATION WOULD SERVE US INTERESTS ARE: A) PAIGC IS CLOSER TO FINAL LIBERATION OF THEIR TERRITORY THAN OTHER LIBERATIONS MOVEMENTS; B) EXCEPT FOR INCREASING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FROM SCANDANAVIANS AND DUTCH, ASSISTANCE TO MOVEMENT HAS BEEN PRIMARILY FROM SOVIETS, CUBANS AND OTHER COMMUNISTS; C) SECRETARY GENERAL OF PAIGC WISHES TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN TIES WITH NON-COMMUNIST WESTERN COUNTRIES AMONG OTHER REASONS TO USE THEM AS A BRIDGE WITH PORTUGAL; D) PAIGC IS PUTTING GREAT EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION AND WISHES TO TRAIN SOME OF THEIR YOUNG

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PEOPLE IN ENGLISH; E) UNTIL NOW US HAS HAD ONLY MINIMAL

CONTACTS IN PAIGC; F) GESTURE SUCH AS SCHOLARSHIP WOULD PROVIDE SOME OF BALANCE MODERATE PAIGC LEADERS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE TO COUNTER COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN MOVEMENT. THIS BEING SAID THERE ARE CERTAIN CAVEATS THAT WOULD APPLY TO ANY PARTICIPANTS FROM GUINEA BISSAU. FIRST, SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD HAVE TO BE OFFERED TO PAIGC. NEXT, IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO USE WORD "REFUGEES" IN CONNECTIONS WITH OFFER AS NEITHER BISSAUANS NOR ANY OTHER AFRICAN IS CONSIDERED A REFUGEE IN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA. FINALLY, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE WOULD BE VERY SMALL AS IN ADDITION TO THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM MOST YOUNG PEOPLE AFTER COMPLETING THEIR SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION ARE SENT TO TEACH OR TO FIGHT. DURING ANY DISCUSSION WITH PAIGC LEADERS IT MIGHT BECOME APPARENT THAT THERE ARE STUDENTS WHO COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR STUDY IN US OR IN UNIVERSITY IN FRIENDLY AFRICAN COUNTRIES, SUCH AS ZAIRE, GHANA, KENYA, ETC. AT PRESENT, OUR KNOWLEDGE IS TOO MEAGER TO MAKE DEFINITE PREDICTION.

3. FROM VIEWPOINT PROBABLE  
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN PAIGC AND  
GUINEA BISSAU CONTINUATION OF NKUMBI COLLEGE, SATP AND SASP COULD PROVIDE USEFUL MEANS FOR EXPOSING FUTURE LEADERS OF AN INDEPENDENT GUINEA BISSAU TO AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND TO A FAVORABLE VIEWPOINT OF THE UNITED STATES. TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS AND TO MAKE GESTURE THAT OF ITSELF WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT ON PAIGC LEADERSHIP REQUEST DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE US TO OFFER 3-5 SCHOLARSHIPS AT NKUMBI OR UNDER SATP OR SASP TO PAIGC SECRETARY GENERAL.  
HAVERKAMP

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